LOCAL AND LEGISLATIVE SECRETARIAT

Administration Report of the Bangalore City Municipality.

READ—

Administration Report of the City Municipal Council, Bangalore, for the year 1924-25, received with the Municipal Commissioner's letters Nos. 56 and 61, dated the 5th and 14th October 1925, respectively.

ORDER NO. L. 4320-5—ML. 106-25-21, DATED 14TH DECEMBER 1925.

Constitution of the Council and Election.—The number of Councillors continued to be the same as in the previous year, namely, 30. The Council was reconstituted with effect from 4th November 1924. The term of the President having also expired on the 3rd November 1924, the Council finally elected Mr. Mahomed Abbas Khan as President. The election was duly approved by Government. The post of the Vice-President was abolished from 4th November 1924, as this was found unnecessary by the appointment of the Municipal Commissioner under Regulation IV of 1923.

2. *Meetings and Attendance.*—In the year under report, there were 43 meetings of the Municipal Council, of which 14 were ordinary, 14 special and 15 adjourned meetings. The average attendance of members was 21·32 against 16·71 in the previous year.

3. *Finance.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 8,54,785 inclusive of investments and a cash balance of Rs. 37,285. The total receipts of the year were Rs. 8,64,195 against Rs. 8,15,426 in the previous year. Out of the total receipts, a sum of Rs. 6,27,942 represented the normal income of the Council against Rs. 6,26,887 in the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 8,19,023, of which, Rs. 6,08,079 represented the normal expenditure against Rs. 8,18,461 and Rs. 5,80,493, respectively, in the year previous. It is satisfactory to note that the normal expenditure was continued to be kept within the normal income. The balance at the close of the year was Rs. 7,29,956. The question of assignment of land revenue derived from lands situated within the Municipal limits is engaging the attention of Government. Government have since sanctioned the proposals of the Council in the matter of the increase of toll rates on certain items, the water rate and the rate on excess water charges so as to enable them to meet the cost of the improvement of the water-supply and the full maintenance charges therefor.

4. *Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The demand under all heads for the year was less than that of the previous year, namely, Rs. 7,26,956 against Rs. 7,72,536 in the previous year. Out of the total demand of Rs. 7,26,956, a sum of Rs. 6,45,464 was collected, Rs. 625 was written off the accounts, leaving a balance of Rs. 80,867 to be collected at the close of the year against an arrear of Rs. 77,835 in the previous year. Out of the total collections of Rs. 6,45,464 the collections under "Assessed taxes" was Rs. 2,15,526 against the total demand of Rs. 2,79,268. The arrears thus remaining to be collected under this head was Rs. 63,191 excluding a remission of Rs. 551 against Rs. 64,849 of the previous year. There was a fall both under tolls worked by the Department and Octroi. The fall of revenue from toll is attributed to the less number of carts that entered the City in consequence of unfavourable agricultural conditions and fall of revenue from Octroi is due to the fall in revenue chiefly under "piece-goods" on account of depression in trade. It is observed that out of the arrears of Rs. 11,801 remained to be collected under other items, a balance of Rs. 9,318 remains yet to be collected, of which a major portion has to be written off the accounts. The Municipal Council should take steps early to write off amounts which cannot be recovered. The report shows that in spite of the directions conveyed in the last year's review to recover the arrears promptly, there is an increase in the arrears instead of a decrease. The balance of the purchase money from the sale of sites in the Visvesvarapuram Extension was Rs. 55,403, out of which only Rs. 5,626 was collected during the year leaving a balance of Rs. 49,777 to be recovered. In connection with the issue of orders on the current year's budget estimates of the City Municipal Council, the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the collection of arrears of taxes on buildings and lands, water and lighting taxes in previous years were brought to the attention of the Municipal Council. Urgent steps are necessary to ensure that arrears do not accumulate and are reduced to a minimum as early as possible.

5. *Public Works.*—Including a sum of Rs. 50,477 required under compensation for acquisition of properties, the total allotment entrusted to the Municipal Public Works Department for expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,27,565. It is satisfactory to note that the full allotment was worked out and there was no lapse as in previous years. The percentage of expenditure to the grant was highest on record, being cent per cent against 88 per cent in the previous year.

6. *City Improvement.*—No new schemes were sanctioned during the year for want of funds, the works that were in progress being the construction of the General Market with its frontage, and subsidiary works connected with the lay out of the Visvesvarapuram Extension and the laying out of the Hoskote Road into a Shop Street and the completion of the Cloth Bazaar. The total expenditure incurred during the year on works which were carried on solely with their own funds and also with the aid of contribution from Government was Rs. 1,78,863 against Rs. 2,02,043 in the previous year.

7. *Acquisition Work.*—During the year under report, 14 cases were taken up by the Municipal Commissioner and awards passed. Compensation amounting to Rs. 1,401-13-9 was paid to the owners of the acquired properties and possession taken.

8. *Public Health and Sanitation.*—Public Health throughout the year was satisfactory. It is satisfactory to note that ever since the outbreak of Plague in the Bangalore City in October 1898, the year under report was free from Plague. There were 18 attacks with 9 deaths from Cholera against 22 attacks and 16 deaths in the previous year. There were 3 attacks and 3 deaths from Influenza. Sporadic cases of small-pox prevailed during the hot months of the year with 52 attacks and 27 deaths against 101 attacks and 51 deaths of the previous year. The number of vaccinations performed was 5,958 against 5,206 in the previous year. The number of births registered was, 4,255 against 3,945 of the last year, working at a ratio of 35·8 per mille of population against 33 in the preceding year. The number of deaths registered was 3,873 against 3,475 of the last year, the ratio of deaths being 32·6 against 31·3 of the previous year.

In addition to the 7 grant-in-aid Dispensaries, the Municipal Council opened 2 free Municipal Unani and Ayurvedic Dispensaries in the New Market buildings during the year.

9. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*—The scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare continued to work during the year under the supervision of the Lady Health Visitor. There were 8 Midwives for the whole City and the number of labour cases conducted by them was 1,208 against 1,015 in the previous year. A class of 12 Dais was started also in the year of report under the supervision of the Lady Health Visitor.

10. *Public Instruction.*—The Primary Education in the City continued to be under the direct management of the Municipal Council. The total number of Primary Schools was 59, of which 34 were for boys and 21 for girls together with 4 adult schools. The total strength was 7,739. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 88,316 the Municipal Council contributed Rs. 31,340 being their quota of expenditure. The Deaf-Mutes School for girls with a strength of 12 pupils continued to be maintained entirely from Municipal Funds.

11. *Audit of Accounts.*—The audit work conducted by the two full-time auditors of the Comptroller's Office is still in arrears. Objections taken by them in the accounts for 1921-22 and 1922-23 in regard to several items are under separate consideration and final orders are under issue. With a view to complete the audit work now on hand and to introduce the concurrent audit of accounts before the 30th June 1926, an additional hand for a period of six months has been since sanctioned by Government. It is hoped that the arrears will be cleared by the Special Staff so as to enable the Comptroller to introduce the concurrent audit at least from the next official year.

12. Government note with satisfaction the good work done by the Municipal Council during the year under the guidance of their non-official Presidents Messrs. B. K. Garudachar and Mahomed Abbas Khan and the Municipal Commissioner Mr. M. G. Krishnawami Rao.

B. NAGAPPA,
Secretary to Government,
Local and Legislative Departments.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Well-Boring Section.

READ—

Government Order No. I. C. 7679-742—A. & E. 132-23-7, dated 18th June 1924, sanctioning the organization of Well-Boring Section in the Agricultural Department, temporarily for one year from 1st July 1924.

Para 11 of Government Order No. 49-63—D., dated the 26th December 1923, sanctioning a sum of Rs. 1,760 for meeting the expenditure connected with the staff to be entertained in the Agricultural Department, for four months for rendering necessary assistance to raiyats to repair the existing irrigation wells and to sink new ones and observing that the question of starting a larger campaign for sinking of the irrigation wells with the aid of improved appliances and technical advice is under the active consideration of Government.